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Coordination, programme and other questions: ad hoc advisory groups on African countries emerging from conflict

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Jagdish Koonjul (Mauritius), on the basis of informal consultations

Assessment of the ad hoc advisory groups of the Economic and Social Council on African countries emerging from conflict

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 55/217 of 21 December 2000 on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, in which the Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council to consider creating ad hoc advisory groups on African countries emerging from conflict with a view to assessing their needs and elaborating a long-term programme of support that begins with the integration of relief into development,

Recalling also the ministerial declaration, adopted at the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council on 18 July 2001, on the role of the United Nations in support of the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development, in which the importance of efforts for integrating peace and development was emphasized, and its resolution 2002/1 of 15 July 2002, in which the Council, having taken note of the report of the Secretary-General on this matter,[1] decided to consider creating, at the request of any African country emerging from conflict, an ad hoc advisory group,

Recalling further its decision 2002/304 of 25 October 2002 and its resolutions 2003/1 of 31 January 2003, 2003/53 of 24 July 2003 and 2004/1 of 3 May 2004 relating to the establishment and the work of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau,

[1] E/2002/12 and Corr.1.

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Recalling its resolution 2003/16 of 21 July 2003, its decision 2003/311 of 22 August 2003 and its resolution 2004/2 of 3 May 2004 relating to the establishment and the work of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Burundi,

Recalling also its resolution 2003/50 of 24 July 2003, in which the Council reiterated the need to undertake an assessment of the lessons learned from the ad hoc advisory groups at its substantive session of 2004, and stressed the need to assess also progress made in the implementation of recommendations made by the ad hoc advisory groups,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the assessment of the ad hoc advisory groups on African countries emerging from conflict;[2]

2. *Recognizes* that the composition of the groups, in particular the participation of the countries concerned, which led to their strong ownership of the process, and the presence of African, other developing and donor countries as members, assisted in ensuring balanced positions and contributing to constructive outcomes;

3. *Commends* the ad hoc advisory groups for their innovative and constructive work in support of the countries concerned, in particular as it relates to:

(a) The open, transparent and participatory approach adopted by the ad hoc advisory groups and the broad consultations carried out at United Nations Headquarters, in the countries concerned and other places, with a wide range of actors, including from civil society and the private sector;

(b) The promotion of a comprehensive approach to peace and development by recognizing the complexity and specificity of the situations in the countries concerned and contributing to the development of a framework under which longer-term development activities are planned;

(c) The promotion of an integrated approach to relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, as a follow-up to the Council's agreed conclusions 1998/1, by, inter alia, linking the short- and medium-term humanitarian assistance to the need for longer-term rehabilitation of communities;

(d) The close and fruitful collaboration engaged with the United Nations system organizations, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, thus creating a constructive and mutually beneficial dynamic among the key players in support of the countries concerned;

(e) The advocacy role played by the ad hoc advisory groups for long-term international support to the countries concerned, particularly through their partnership approach aimed at establishing a shared understanding of the development challenges and providing recommendations towards concrete solutions, including a long-term development strategy, outlining the respective responsibilities of national authorities and international partners;

4. *Urges* the ad hoc advisory groups to take into account the following areas for enhancing the effectiveness of their work within their respective mandates:

[2] E/2004/86.

(a) Fostering the creation of practical recommendations or strategic advice on how to make the transition from relief to development and increasing relationships with the United Nations Development Group/Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs working group on transition issues by exploring the complementary nature of their work;

(b) Entering into closer contacts and collaboration with regional and subregional organizations, such as the African Union, the regional economic communities and regional financial organizations, such as the African Development Bank, whose activities are key to the transition processes of the countries concerned;

(c) Continuing to strengthen their advice on how to ensure that the assistance of the international community in supporting the countries concerned is adequate, coherent, well-coordinated and effective and promotes synergy, including through exploring modalities to further mobilize additional resources, building on relevant mechanisms of coordination at the country level and at the international level;

(d) Ensuring the groups' early contribution to and participation in donor conferences on the countries concerned in order to maximize the impact of their advocacy work;

(e) Promoting a further increase in the interaction between the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council on the situation in the countries concerned, within their respective mandates;

5. *Invites* the Bretton Woods institutions to continue to cooperate with the ad hoc advisory groups and identify areas of convergence, in support of the post-conflict recovery phase that these countries are going through;

6. *Decides* to have a substantive debate on the reports of the ad hoc advisory groups as soon as it is appropriate;

7. *Stresses* the need to conclude the mandate of the ad hoc advisory groups, taking into account all aspects of the situation in each case, and decides to assess progress made towards that end on a semi-annual basis;

8. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the support provided to the ad hoc advisory groups, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure adequate human and technical resources, within existing resources, to provide substantive secretariat support while making maximum use of existing mechanisms and coordination structures, and to ensure the provision of financial resources to cover the operating costs in order to enable the groups to function in a smooth and optimal manner;

9. *Decides* to undertake a further assessment of lessons learned on the experiences of the ad hoc advisory groups, including progress made in the implementation of their mandate, during its substantive session of 2006, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Economic and Social Council in this regard;

10. *Reaffirms* that each ad hoc advisory group should be specific to the situation prevailing in each country and that further decisions and resolutions should continue to take into account the specific circumstances of any other African country emerging from conflict that requests the establishment of an ad hoc advisory group.